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'Self-Centered' Paranoid

CAUCUS OF LABOR
Committees

Other Leftists Decrie Ultraradicals

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By JOEL LANG

Second of Two Parts

The National Caucus of Labor Committees, a new group on the extreme political left, treats most other radical groups as competitors.

Hartford NCLC members (the group has about 15 active members here) say that radicals who do not see the truth of the NCLC ideology are either fools operating under fantasies or dupes of the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

But these other radicals seem to feel the same way about the NCLC.

Members of local units of the Communist party, the Young Socialists Alliance, the Puerto Rican Socialists party, and so-called independent radicals, who comprise by far the largest group, all agree the NCLC is giving the left a bad name.

Many even suspect the NCLC is itself controlled by the CIA.

"An alien force, an aberration," is the way Kenneth Hobbs of the Young Socialists Alliance, a branch of the Socialist's Workers party, describes the NCLC.

"They give us a bad character. They make it harder on us (to organize). Workers say if that's socialism, we don't want any part of it," said Hobbs.

David Batchelder an independent radical long active in the antiwar movement said: "I can relate to their ideas about an economic conspiracy and police infiltration, but in terms of their actions — I think it's too bad."

"They're very self-centered. They disrupt other progressive groups. I think they're a little paranoid in a destructive way."

This "self-centered" quality is one of the principle complaints other radicals have about the NCLC.

"It's ridiculous to think that in this country any one organization is going to lead all the change," says Brian Steinberg of the Communist party.

The Young Socialists Alliance criticizes the NCLC for its monolithic approach to mass political movements.

The NCLC seems to have a "if you're not with us you're against us" attitude.

tude has apparently led to attacks on leftist groups in other cities.

Last spring the NCLC launched Operation Mop-Up against Communist party organizations in larger cities on the East Coast.

"We forcibly removed the CP from the political scene after they interfered with our organizing once too often," George Geller, a leader of the NCLC in Hartford, explained matter-of-factly.

The attacks came after the Communist party refused to confess it had tried to discredit the NCLC and to prevent it from organizing black neighborhoods, the group claims.

Demanding Confessions

Squads of NCLC members armed with sticks invaded Communist party meetings and demanded confessions. When the Communists refused, fighting broke out.

"We carried out Operation Mop-Up in order to stop them from disorganizing against us. We did it as painlessly as possible for them," said another Hartford NCLC member, Jerry Belski.

Belski said the violence was insignificant compared to the millions of lives that could be lost if the NCLC is prevented from organizing.

Besides, he said, the Communists were armed also and the left has a history of internal violence.

At a meeting, a Communist party leader in Hartford disagreed.

"The left has never really rotten along," he admitted, "but this is something that never happened before—a group that is set on physical violence."

He said the party in Hartford has received telephone threats warning against organizing.

Steinberg said he believes violence could come in Hartford after the NCLC gains strength.

"They're just not strong enough yet," he said.

Fear Reprials

A few persons who had been

active in the antiwar movement, asked not to have their names used in stories about the NCLC because they said they fear reprisals.

Belski denied that threats have been made.

Perhaps one of the strangest chapters in the history of the NCLC's relations with other left groups concerned the Puerto Rican Socialist party.

Last year the NCLC published an article on the "Sexual Impotence of the Puerto Rican Socialist Party." NCLC members in Hartford described the article as a breakthrough in behavioral science.

Ruy Lugo, a member of the Puerto Rican group in Hartford said NCLC members forced their way into a party function and demanded to discuss the alleged sexual impotency.

Lugo said the only sense he could make out of the article was that it was intended to intimidate and embarrass the party.

Called 'Rightist'

Lugo said the party does not consider the NCLC a serious leftist political force. "It's a rightist group that uses left rhetoric," he said.

"We take them seriously only in that we feel they have been infiltrated by rightist elements," he said.

Many of the radicals interviewed shared Lugo's suspicion.

They point to beatings in other cities directed at other radical groups and the NCLC's apparent wealth. The group supports organizers in many cities and publishes a relatively polished weekly newspaper. They suspect CIA influence.

NCLC member Geller denies the group receives any government money. He said the NCLC depends on contributions from the working class.

According to criticisms from other leftist groups, Geller said they simply don't know what the group is.

"These campus leftists don't understand the situation. They don't consciously understand there's a real crisis that a

shooting war is coming (to this country) in two to three years," Geller said.

'Parlor Pinkos'

"These parlor pinkos want the world to go away," he said.

The NCLC, as Geller explained it, believes it alone has stopped the conspiracy of the CIA and Rockefeller money interests from seizing control of

the country.

He said the NCLC's efforts to organize the working class are essential to survival of freedom in this country.

"Either the working class (organized by the NCLC) will take power or the human race will cease to exist as we know it," said Geller.